



June 9, 2005



Thirty-three month prison sentence for felon who had a gun

A federal judge has sentenced **Ryan Cardente**, of Providence, to 33 months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. In February, Cardente admitted that he had a pistol on him when Providence Police detectives confronted him in April 2004.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the plea, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed on June 3 U.S. District Court, Providence.

At a hearing in February when Cardente pleaded guilty, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that the government could prove that, on April 15, 2004, when Providence detectives confronted Cardente and another man on Ford Street, Cardente ran and tossed away a handgun. Detectives apprehended him and retrieved the gun, a .380-caliber, semi-automatic pistol with a round in the chamber.

Cardente, 23, of 102 Ford Street, has prior felony convictions for breaking and entering and conspiracy.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. The federal prosecution by Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee resulted from a joint review of the case by the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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The joint review of gun cases is part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 600 years in federal prison.

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